

Subject: ACTION ALERT: Tell Metro we want an Arts District Station by Nov. 17
From: "Central City Association" <sphillips@ccala.org>
Date: 11/13/2017 03:05 PM
To: "Nick Griffin" <ngriffin@downtownla.com>

[CCA Action Alert](#)

Action Alert

Make your voice heard: Tell Metro we
want an Arts District Station

**Send a letter to Metro urging
them to plan for an Art District
Station**

Metro is currently planning its [Division 20 portal widening and turnback facility project](#), adding track in the Arts District for storage of hundreds of new heavy rail vehicles. This is a perfect opportunity to plan for a 6th Street Arts District Station and improve connections between the Arts District and the LA River.

For more information, contact
CCA Director of Public Policy, [Shane Phillips](#).

Unfortunately, Metro appears to be de-emphasizing these priorities in their Division 20 planning, so we need CCA members to speak up and let them know that **an Arts District Red Line Station is non-negotiable and an expanded open air railyard is unacceptable.**

Comments to Metro are due by **November 17**, and should be addressed to Cris Liban, Executive Officer at Metro, at libane@metro.net. CCA sent a letter, which can be found [here](#), but additional comments will help make a stronger case.

Below are suggestions for comments to include in your letter:

Arts District Station

- The Arts District is a rapidly growing neighborhood that is poorly served by transit. To support its growth, a 6th Street Station is imperative.
- This area will become even more of a destination as the LA River Revitalization and 6th Street Bridge and PARC are developed, and as thousands of new homes

and jobs arrive. We must provide better mobility options for getting to and from these sites.

- It will be harder to plan and build a station after the storage and turnback facility work is complete; the time is now.
- The Arts District Station will actually reduce environmental impacts caused by the expansion and construction of the turnbak and train storage facilities.
- **Recommendation:** Include the 6th Street Arts District Station in Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and include station design as part of the Division 20 work, not as a separate-but-related project.

Connections between the Arts District and the River

- We understand the need for additional storage track because the Purple Line is being extended, but it can't be an eyesore -- an inaccessible open-air railyard. Los Angeles and the Arts District deserve better.
- Metro must prioritize preserving and improving connections between the Arts District and LA River, and making those connections attractive and safe places where people want to be.
- There are examples from across the U.S. and across the world of "decking" on top of rail facilities to build parks and open space, housing, cultural and entertainment venues, and offices.
- Covering the rail facilities can be an opportunity to create revenue, not just an additional cost.
- Now is the time to plan for these improvements rather than trying to retrofit them into place in the years or decades to come.
- Security concerns are not a valid argument against these improvements, just like they haven't been at other Metro sites or at similar sites around the world.
- **Recommendation:** Analyze options for covering the railyard with productive/active uses, including the potential for revenue generation. Focus on creating welcoming, safe, and convenient connections between Downtown and the LA River.

Comments are due to libane@metro.net by November 17. If you have any questions about Division 20 or your comment letter, please contact Shane Phillips, Director of Public Policy, at sphillips@ccala.org.

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